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House of Representatives

**REMEMBERING REVEREND
FRANK ALAGNA**

**THE HONORABLE PATRICK K. RYAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 1, 2026

Mr. Ryan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Reverend Frank Alagna, a true champion of justice and one of the fiercest advocates for the most vulnerable among us that I have had the honor of working with. His ministry knew no borders; from its beginning, it brought him to the other side of the globe and called him to tend to refugee and immigrant communities.

Ultimately, it brought him to our shared home of the Hudson Valley, where he served many parishes, including St. Margaret's in Staatsburg, St. Andrew's in Beacon, and Holy Cross/Santa Cruz in Kingston. Father Frank's mission of serving his community expanded beyond his parishes; he advocated for those who are without shelter, and co-founded the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network, a critical voice and support system for immigrants in Ulster County.

Through the broad reach of his work, he called on us all to treat neighbors and strangers alike with compassion, to demand justice for the marginalized, and to bravely defy inhumanity wherever, whenever, and from whoever we see it. Through his pastoral leadership, community advocacy, and tenure at UIDN, Father Frank inspired countless neighbors, congregants, and volunteers to take on active roles in welcoming every person to our community and ensuring they were fully cared for.

As a result, UIDN has provided services including legal support, health care, transportation, access to education, financial aid, and household necessities to thousands of those most in need and it continues to do so.

Father Frank challenged complicity and complacency. For him, faith is not an intangible concept - it is the constant act of resistance against injustice. He was the greatest fear of false idols, those who exploit religion for power, and those who profit from the marginalization of others. He was the leader our nation and world needs more of - grounded purely in selfless service, solidarity, and an unshakable moral compass.

His life profoundly shaped the Hudson Valley, and his legacy will continue to do so. I send my deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and community. Father Frank fought for a compassionate and just Hudson Valley. Now, it's on each of us to ensure his work lives on.

Thank you, and I yield back.

